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Title of Article: National Alliance to End Homelessness Community Snapshot: New York City
National Alliance to End Homelessness Pathways to Housing New York, NY
National Alliance to End Homelessness Best Practices STRIVE/ East Harlem Employment
Services Inc.
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The goal New York City's new plan, United for Solutions Beyond Shelter, was to prevent family homelessness. The key points were to expand affordable housing, increase community support, prioritize high need neighborhoods, use a variety of interventions, understand the unique needs of families, increase legal services, and draw on family support networks. This is an ongoing five year plan which began in 2004. Positive results are beginning to show; the percentage of families served by shelters that are later placed into permanent housing has increased from 22% in 2002 to 28% in 2004, and there was a slight decline in the total number of families in temporary housing from 2003 to 2004, as well as a larger decrease of 5% from 2004 to 2005. City officials used a data driven approach to design homelessness prevention models that target at risk families before they become homeless. City officials also reviewed funds and evaluated the cost effectiveness of programs, as well as redirecting funds currently used for shelters to supportive housing. Mechanisms included in the plan increased communication between homeless agency case workers and mainstream agencies such as child welfare. The approaches which made this program unique were immediately placing families in permanent housing and using data driven prevention efforts to evaluate existing prevention programs and replicate successful ones, as well as identify and target at risk neighborhoods (no information given to address question 5).

Another program which exists in New York, Pathways to Housing, is designed to end homelessness for people living on the streets with concurrent mental illness and addiction. Pathways is unique because it does not require clients to first complete other transitional programs, become sober, or accept of supportive services. The goal of this program is to provide clients with permanent housing immediately, and then to bring them services that meet their basic needs, enhance quality of life, increase social skills, and increase employment opportunities. Founded in 1992, the program currently serves over 400 people. Services are brought to clients in their homes by Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams of up to ten service coordinators. Pathways to Housing employs 4 housing staff, 40 service coordinators, 5 team leaders, 2 psychiatrists, 2 nurses and a vocational specialist. The staff is culturally and racially similar to the population the program serves, and half of its members are people in recovery who serve as role models. Staff members assist clients in locating and selecting private market rental housing by working with landlords, negotiating leases, and completing Section 8 applications. Funding for the Pathways program comes from housing subsidies and grants from the HUD Shelter Plus Care program and the New York State Office of Mental Health. Each unit costs approximately \$20,000 per year. According to data collected in 1999, 65% of tenants had last lived on the streets, 18% in shelters, and 7% in treatment facilities. The rest had lived with friends, at the Y, or in transitional facilities. Data from 2000 showed that 88% of the program's tenants remained housed after five years.

A third program in New York, STRIVE, is a job training program which secures employment for the hard-to-employ. Unlike the programs in the first two articles, it is privately owned and funded with the exception of several federal grants. Strive consists of technical job

training programs, the Fragile Families Initiative development course for young fathers, the Rites of Passage Programs to support the development of men and women into responsible adults, and a STRIVE Training Academy to teach leaders STRIVE's program techniques and philosophy.

The program has existed since 1984 and is ongoing. Strive has a network of 18 job training sites in four cities including New York, Boston, Chicago, and Pittsburgh. Thirty job trainers interact with about 1,000 employers annually. Strive also works with clients after placement to insure their continual success. (no information given to address questions 6 or 7).

Questions raised by these programs:

Did other factors contribute to the positive statistical results found in the first article, or was for Solutions Beyond Shelter responsible for these trends? How was this program funded? Is providing immediate housing for homeless people who are mentally ill and drug addicted and then providing services a more effective strategy for helping these clients than requiring them to go through transitional programs first?

How effective has STRIVE been in assisting its clients in finding jobs? How effective has the program been in preventing clients from becoming homeless, or in preventing homelessness in general in the areas it serves?

Possible goals suggested by these articles:

Prevent family homelessness

Provide mentally ill and drug addicted homeless with housing and services

Provide job training to groups that have difficulty finding employment